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Local on the 8s

Local on the 8s (or the ***Local Forecast***) (Spanish: *Local en las 8s* o *Pronóstico Local*) is a program segment that airs on the American network The Weather Channel. It provides viewers with information on current and forecasted weather conditions for their respective area; a version of this segment is also available on the channel's national satellite feed that features forecasts for each region of the United States. The name comes from the timing of the segment, as airs at timeslots that end in "8" (examples: 9:18 and 12:48); because of this manner of scheduling, the forecast segments air on the channel in ten-minute intervals. From 2006-2013, each forecast segment had usually been preceded by a promo for one of The Weather Channel's programs or services, leading into the segment with the announcer stating "And now, your *Local on the 8s*". On November 12, 2013, the promo segment was replaced by an intro that was built into the *Local on the 8s* segment. As of April 2018, the segment airs at approximately :18 past each hour. It also usually airs at approximately :48 past each hour during live Weather Channel broadcasts.

Local on the 8s	
Also known as	*Local Forecast (1982–1996, 1998–2002)*
Created by	The Weather Channel
Based on	Weather forecast
Narrated by	Dan Chandler (1987–1995) Allen Jackson (2000–2015)[a] Jim Cantore (2010–present)[b]
Composer	Various
Country of origin	United States
Original language	English
Production	
Running time	Varying from 30 seconds to 5 minutes (1982–1998) 1-2 minutes (1998-2013) 1 minute (2013–present)
Original release	
Network	The Weather Channel
Release	May 2, 1982 – present

History

The Weather Channel has carried a local weather forecast segment since the network was launched on May 2, 1982. The segments were originally seen either every five minutes or eight times an hour at various times (airing more frequently in the morning and less frequently at night). The structure of scheduling the segments six times an hour at times ending in "8" was implemented in mid-1995. The "Local on the 8s" name was first used on April 21, 1996 to coincide with a sweeping revamp of the channel's on-air presentation; The Weather Channel filed for a trademark on the name on June 24, 1997. The name has caused confusion in the New York City market, as the now-separately owned television and radio combination of WCBS-TV and WCBS Newsradio 880 use "traffic and weather on the 8s" to refer to the combined traffic and weather segments featured on those stations (which appear on WCBS-TV only during its morning newscasts and on WCBS radio at all hours).

Forecasts are generated by a WeatherStar machine, a proprietary hardware system in the form of a computerized unit that is installed in a headend at the facilities of local pay television providers that carry the channel. Weather information is received from a data stream encapsulated within the TWC video feed transmitted via satellite, which is then sent to the WeatherStar unit that inserts the localized data over the TWC feed. The WeatherStar systems are capable of adding or removing segments shown within the main local forecast segment, with the common exception of the extended forecast; these customized segments are referred to as "flavors," which allow variabilities in the weather graphics displayed during each local forecast segment, resulting in certain types of specialized weather data appearing only at specific times or lengths. As of April 2013, the length of these flavors is uniformly one minute; flavor lengths previously varied between 30 seconds and two minutes prior to April 2013 and extended flavors of three to six minutes were previously included between the late 1980s and the mid-1990s.

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On June 26, 2023, TWC announced an hour-long feature called “Retro 8s”, which is based on the era in the 1990s. It features the same band and jazz music recently introduced, and mimics the many varieties of music back before the IntelliStar update in 2008. The remastered graphics are all inspired by the WeatherStar 4000.[1]

As of Monday, November 6, 2023, “Retro Local on the 8s” and “Twilight Live” were discontinued.

Music

Until 2013, Pop and smooth jazz music was regularly played during the "Local on the 8s" segments.[2] The Weather Channel released its own Smooth Jazz CD in 2007, *The Weather Channel Presents: The Best of Smooth Jazz*, based on collections of popular music played during the "Local On the 8s" segments. It peaked at #1 on Billboard's Top Contemporary Jazz charts that year.[3] In 2013, The Weather Channel switched to mostly playing production music produced exclusively for the network, and in 2023, the network switched to using music from the Transition Music Corporation's library.

Music that is heard over the national feed's forecast segments is also transmitted over the localized segments generated by the STAR headend units.

See also

- WeatherStar
- Weatherscan

Notes

a. Only on IntelliStar and WeatherSTAR XL systems.
b. Only on IntelliSTAR 2 systems.

References

1. Wassell, Kayla (June 29, 2023). "The Weather Channel Is Bringing Back Its Classic On The 8s Retro Look" (https://cordcuttersnews.com/the-weather-channel-is-brining-back-its-classic-on-the-8s-retro-look/). *Cord Cutters News*. Retrieved July 27, 2023.
2. "Meet weather's music man: 'Local on the 8s' features lots of tunes" (https://www.proquest.com/docview/382260684). The News Press. October 25, 2004. ProQuest 382260684 (https://www.proquest.com/docview/382260684). Retrieved June 15, 2022.
3. "Chart history for *The Weather Channel Presents: The Best of Smooth Jazz*" (https://web.archive.org/web/20090404053923/http://www.billboard.com/bbcom/esearch/chart_display.jsp?cfi=318&cfgn=Albums&cfn=Top%2BContemporary%2BJazz&ci=3093502&cdi=9730786&cid=04%2F19%2F2008). Billboard Magazine. Archived from the original (https://www.billboard.com/bbcom/esearch/chart_display.jsp?cfi=318&cfgn=Albums&cfn=Top+Contemporary+Jazz&ci=3093502&cdi=9730786&cid=04%2F19%2F2008) on April 4, 2009. Retrieved May 28, 2008.

External links

- The Weather Channel (https://www.weathergroup.com/brands/the-weather-channel)

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